

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

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Thursday, October 22, 2009



ORANJESTAD - On Tuesday afternoon, all the candidates for the Miss Aruba Pageant returned back to Aruba very happy after their trip to Rio Hacha, Colombia. After visiting a couple of haciendas, they left Saturday for "Bocas de Camarones" where they were delighted with a spectacular seafood lunch, and after they all went for their photo shoots on the beach. That same evening they were the special



Aruba's beauties return from Colombia



guests of Mayor Jaider Curiel where he celebrated his birthday with them as his special guest.



With a very packed schedule

Monday morning they

left for the studios of Tele

Norte where the candidates



were interviewed, followed with a visit to the office of the governor. The group of beauties then went to the museum of natural gas, where they received an explanation on how natural gas is mined in the sea. That same Monday

night all candidates were present at a shopping mall where they were presented to the general public. Tuesday morning they visited another TV station called Guajira Television before returning to Aruba with Tiara Air. □



Gearing up for the second edition already

Café Rembrandt treats Rembrandt Regatta volunteers to a great dinner



PALM BEACH - Organizers and volunteers of the first Aruba Rembrandt Regatta enjoyed a great evening at Café Rembrandt last Monday. Talk was of course about the successful sailing regatta, which was held mid August. The international participation of nine yachts made the Aruba Regatta to a fabulous event with stature. The 2010 edition of the event promises to be even bigger and better, announced organizer Eric Mijts during his speech. During the evening valued sponsors Café Rembrandt, Heineken and Car Colour Aruba received plaques to thank them for their assistance. Special thanks went to

the Coastguard of Aruba, represented by the head of the Kustwacht Randolph Paskel, Reynold Kirindongo and Loida Gonzalez. The Aruba Rembrandt Regatta 2010 can count on great enthusiasm of Sunfish and Beach Cat sailors, windsurfers and kite surfers, but also on quite a large number of yachts, especially from Curacao. During the International Bonaire Sailing Regatta, held earlier this month, it became clear that no fewer than eleven yachts from our sister island are planning to participate. This is great news for the yachts in the Cruising and Racing Class and a sure promise of exciting races.



The Eva Luna of Eric and Anita Mijts and the Tranquilo of Anthony Hagedoorn (both organizers of the Aruba Regatta) participate in the upcoming Heineken Regatta Curaçao. There will be ample opportunities to promote the 2010 Aruba Regatta during the event. Closer ties, improved communication between the three ABC Regattas, and lots of good will between the organizers will surely show results.

Photos show what a night of fun and evaluation at Café Rembrandt looks like. □





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Amazonia Churrascaria helps host a press trip



PALM BEACH – Amazonia Churrascaria helped ECO Destinational Management of Aruba host a Venezuelan Media Press trip, Sunday to Wednesday, accompanied by the ECO DMS Venezuelan representative, Reynaldo Pulido, director of Ithaca Reps, C.A.

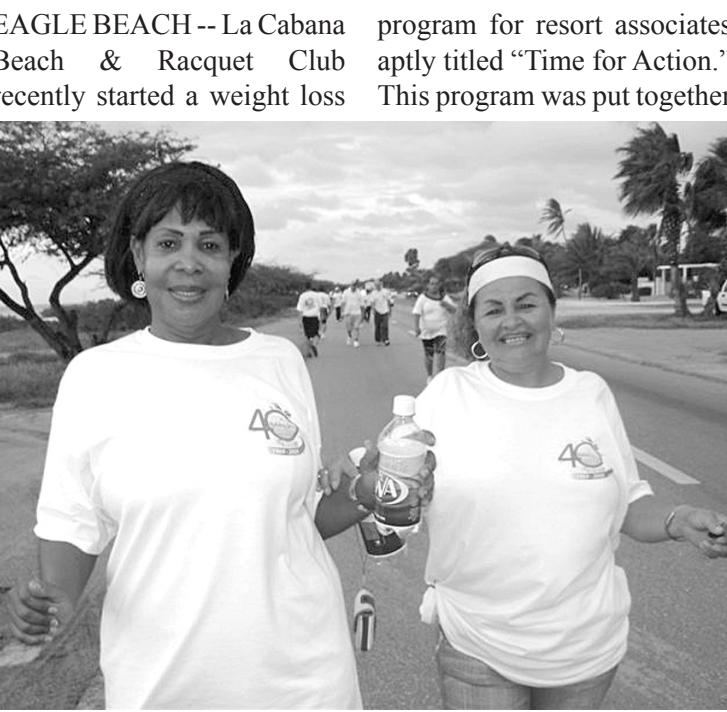
Pulido put together an impressive list of Venezuelan media executives and invited them to visit the island and experience Aruba and its many

valuable assets first hand. The 12 hand-picked invitees enjoyed an action packed couple of days, while staying at the Aruba Marriott. The group was escorted by Patricia Tromp, Kimberly Mathilda and Magali Meza, of ECO DMS. Pictured here the informal cocktail party at Amazonia Churrascaria with the group enjoying refreshing caipirinhas just before dinner at sister-restaurant Aqua Grill □



**"FAVI FUNDACION
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A Time for Action, at La Cabana

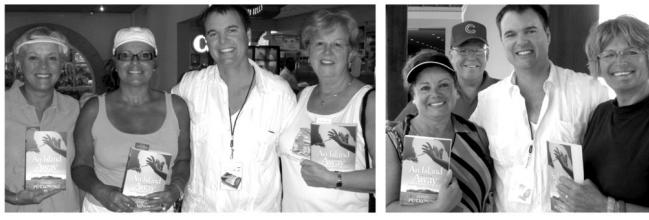


by the Health Club attendants focusing on ways to improve the health of their colleagues. A total of 20 participants signed up for the program, for the duration of 12 weeks, consisting of a complete workout at the Health Club, including the use of the sauna, the introduction of a special meal plan, Zumba classes, and a formal conclusion in the form of an organized walk, or a Caminata in Papiamento. By the end of the year, the 20 participants will be able to not only look good but also feel healthy!

In the same frame of mind, the resort recently organized a seminar with fitness guru Rene Wild designed to educate associates regarding eating habits, meal plans and, and general healthy nutrition facts. Wild discussed good and bad carbs, and paved the way for the weight loss program. At the end of his discourse participants of the weight loss program and associates from several departments enjoyed a healthy lunch put together by the Food & Beverage team. For dessert, the icing the cake was Zumba instructor, Niurca de Cuba, who surprised everyone with a short but high-energy Zumba session □



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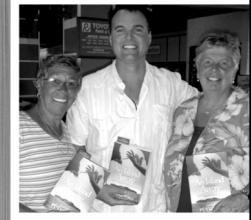
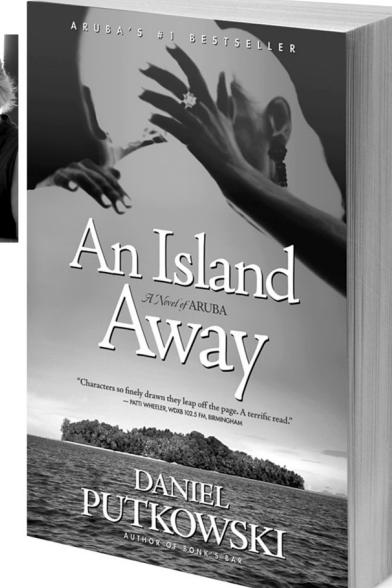
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AirTran Holdings, Inc., Reports Net Income of \$10.4 Million in Third Quarter

ORLANDO, Fla. -- AirTran Holdings, Inc., the parent company of AirTran Airways, Inc., today reported net income of \$10.4 million or \$0.08 per diluted share for the third quarter of 2009. These results represent a \$105.0 million improvement over the third quarter of 2008.

The operating income for the third quarter of 2009 was \$37.0 million and is the second highest third quarter operating income in Company history.

The Company has been profitable in each quarter of 2009, and has posted year-to-date records in operating income of \$150.9 million, net income of \$117.6 million, and load factor of 80.4 percent.

Included in net income for the third quarter were \$6.3 million of unrealized losses on the Company's future fuel hedge portfolio and a \$6.4 million gain primarily related to the Company's retention of deposits from a terminated aircraft sales contract. Excluding these items, the economic net income for the third quarter of 2009 was \$10.6 million or \$0.08 per diluted share.

"Our 8,500 dedicated Crew Members are committed to running the finest airline in the U.S., and their outstanding efforts have resulted in AirTran being profitable every quarter this year," said Bob Fornaro, AirTran Airways' chairman, president and chief executive officer. "Through their hard

work and dedication and the loyalty of our customers, we have been very successful despite these difficult economic times."

During the third quarter, AirTran Airways continued to expand its network by adding point-to-point service from Atlanta, Baltimore, Milwaukee, and Orlando.

The industry's low-cost leader introduced a significantly expanded Caribbean schedule with new service to Montego Bay, Jamaica, Nassau, Bahamas, and Aruba, as well as new service to Key West, Fla.

"The year-over-year improvement in our financial performance is directly related to maintaining our industry-leading low cost structure while providing 'best-in-class' service and outstanding value to our business and leisure passengers," said Arne Haak, senior vice president of finance, treasurer and chief financial officer for AirTran Airways. "AirTran Airways was among the first airlines to react to the changing economic environment in 2008, and our operating performance this year reflects those actions."

Other highlights of AirTran Airways' accomplishments in the third quarter and to date include:

-- AirTran Airways is the first and only major airline to equip every flight on all aircraft with high-speed Gogo Inflight Internet

-- Expanded Caribbean and Florida service and announced the following new destinations: Montego Bay, Jamaica; Nassau, Bahamas; Aruba and Key West, Fla.

-- Bolstered liquidity by extending and enhancing a \$175 million credit facility and completing over \$165 million in equity and debt financing

-- Announced multi-year marketing partnerships with the Atlanta Falcons (and launched special livery aircraft, Falcons One) and the Orlando Magic

AirTran Holdings, Inc. will conduct a conference call to discuss the quarter's results today at 9:30 a.m. EDT. A live broadcast of the conference call will be available via the Internet in the investor relations section at <http://www.airtran.com>.

AirTran Airways, a subsidiary of AirTran Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: AAI) and a Fortune 1000 company, has been ranked the number one low cost carrier in the Airline Quality Rating study for the past two years. AirTran is the only major airline with Gogo Inflight Internet on every flight and offers coast-to-coast service on North America's newest all-Boeing fleet. Its low-cost, high-quality product also includes assigned seating, Business Class and complimentary XM Satellite Radio on every flight. To book a flight, visit <http://www.airtran.com>.

RBTT, Western Union launch new joint service

PHILIPSBURG--RBTT Bank Tuesday launched its new facilitated Western Union services at its branch locations in St. Maarten and Saba.

This service allows both RBTT account holders and walk-in clients to send and receive domestic or international money transfers for payout in 200 countries and territories across 385,000 Western Union Agent locations worldwide.

RBTT President and Country Head Wayne Kowlessar noted that although Western Union is not new to the island, its alliance with RBTT will make it more widely available to the local community and for the first time in Saba.

With effect from Tuesday, the Western Union service will be offered Mondays to Fridays from 8:00am to 3:30pm at the RBTT branches on Cannegieter Street, Emmapplein, Cole Bay and Simpson Bay. A teller will be stationed at each location to assist customers with the new service.

Highlighting the advantages of the joint venture Kowlessar stated, "The practical value of money transfers cannot be overstated. In so many ways it serves as a direct connection to the developed world. In today's global village the convenience of being able to send and receive money internationally means easy access to funds in emergencies, the ability to pay for services worldwide and the advantage of being able to receive remittances."

On this note Western Union's Country Director for the Hispanic Caribbean and the Netherlands Antilles Veronica Elias stated that remittances were a large part of whom and what Western Union is based on considering it to be one of the most powerful forces in global economic development today.

"Our agreement with RBTT is an important one. It is part of Western Union's focus on identifying and driving the development of best-in-class services to expand the company's business to new consumer segments throughout the Americas and now St. Maarten," Elias commented.

She noted that the prevailing need for banked and unbanked consumers to transfer money around the world brings a significant business opportunity to both RBTT and Western Union. "Together our businesses will now provide added convenience to consumers," she said.

Kowlessar also took the opportunity to highlight RBTT's ongoing finalising of a new parentage under the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC). As part of the RBC family, RBTT now stands in the enviable position of being part of a parent bank that is the 12th largest globally.

When the RBC/RBTT merger is complete, RBC's Caribbean operations will span 18 countries from the Bahamas to Suriname and serve more than 1.6 million clients. "RBTT is in a good place. RBC's prudent and disciplined approach to growth gives RBTT a solid platform on which it can build and explore the opportunities that abound in the Caribbean," commented Kowlessar. □

*** Human Hints Daily

Don't Get Stuck In The Physicality

For the most part, people are aware only of the physical aspect of the world. The three dimensional realm is all we know, and we've been taught that the five senses are the only definition of reality. We are now coming to understand that all things physical are an illusion, a movie representing only a tiny portion of our full expression.

When we start to see the physical illusion for what it is, we begin to become aware of the aspects of ourselves that exist beyond three dimensions. Any idea that there is something beyond the physical is ultimately a leap of faith, which our physical

bodies don't like. Your body will do whatever it can, to keep you in the illusion.

One trick the body will play on you, is to encourage you to get caught up in the physicality of things. When you place importance on three dimensional things, you are caught in the physicality. We forget that three dimensional things only represent what is inside of us. The thing is meaningless, except for the part of ourselves that it represents. When we realize that it's what is inside us that is important, the physical thing that represents what is inside us loses importance. We can't lose what is inside

us, no matter what happens to the physical representation.

Sentimental value is getting caught in the physicality of your past. Let your past go if you want to grow. Hoarding is being stuck to physical representations because you don't trust your Spirit's ability to provide for you. When you worry about scarcity, you don't trust that you are One with Infinite Abundance.

We get caught in the physicality because we don't have faith in our own beliefs. We think the physical is real because we can sense it with our body, and we're not sure of what's beyond the Illusion. When we jump into the unknown, our faith is the only guide we have.

Enlightenment leads to Abundance, and it's alright to have physical things, just don't let them own you. Don't let physical things alter your emotions. Enjoy the physical while not becoming attached to it. It is alright to keep momentums of the past, just don't cling to them for the sake of holding onto the physicality.

Release your emotional attachment to physical things by trusting that your Self beyond three dimensions is in Unity with Infinite Abundance, and that the beyond-physical aspect of your Self will make sure you are provided for in the physical. Trusting in your ability to provide for yourself will give you freedom and sovereignty in any situation.

between you owning your physical stuff and your physical stuff owning you. The subtle shift in your attitude toward your things will cause a dramatic transformation in your Personal Power and Freedom. Embrace the physical, but don't let it have power over you. Your definition of your Self is within your Self.

Physical things are nothing more than representations of the way you see yourself.

Until Tomorrow...

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. Human Hints Daily is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

PO Box 997, Vail, CO 81658
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You don't have to give away everything you own, just release your emotional connection to what you have. It can be fun and empowering to surround yourself with physical representations and use three dimensional symbols to empower your manifestation abilities. We're in the physical, so dive in and enjoy! ...with moderation and emotional detachment from the outcome. Quite a challenge.

There is a subtle difference



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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
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Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to
make reservations, please
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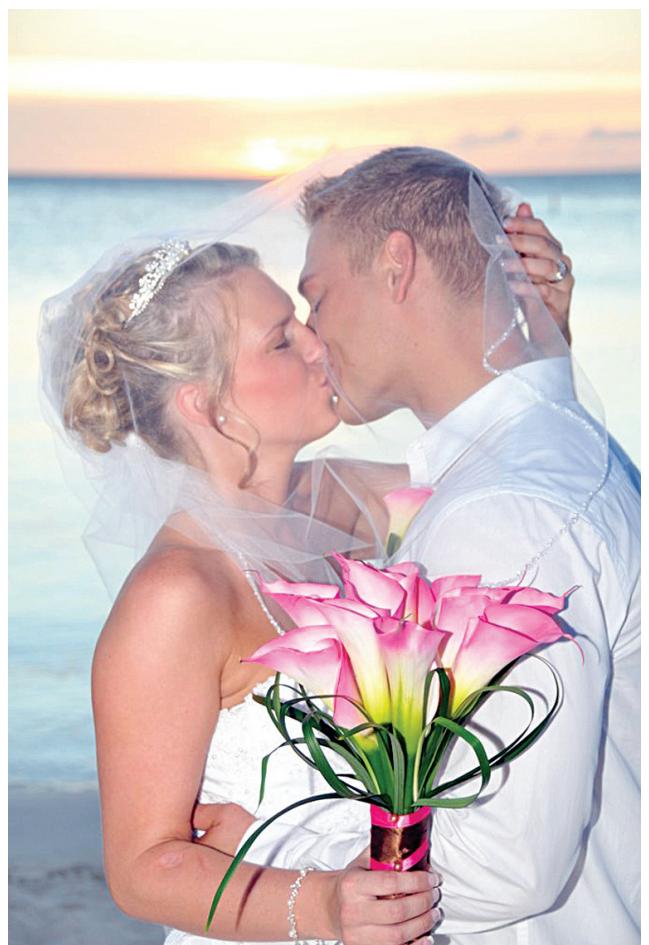
At the Aruba Marriott Resort

Amanda & Clint exchange rings and vows of marriage



PALM BEACH - Amanda Maxey & Clint Mendinsky were married on the beach before family and friends at the Aruba Marriott Resort recently. Rev. John Wardlaw officiated the toes-in-the sand ceremony coordinated by Desiree Biker of the Aruba Marriott Resort and executed by the Marriott's professional events team.

After exchanging rings and reading their vows of commitment to one another, the couple said I do followed by signing of the official documents. The intimate



ceremony ended with a champagne toast and the official cutting of the wedding cake followed by a fabulous reception dinner for the newlyweds and their guests.

Congratulations to Amanda & Clint from Aruba Today and may you celebrate all your anniversaries at your home away from home Aruba. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~





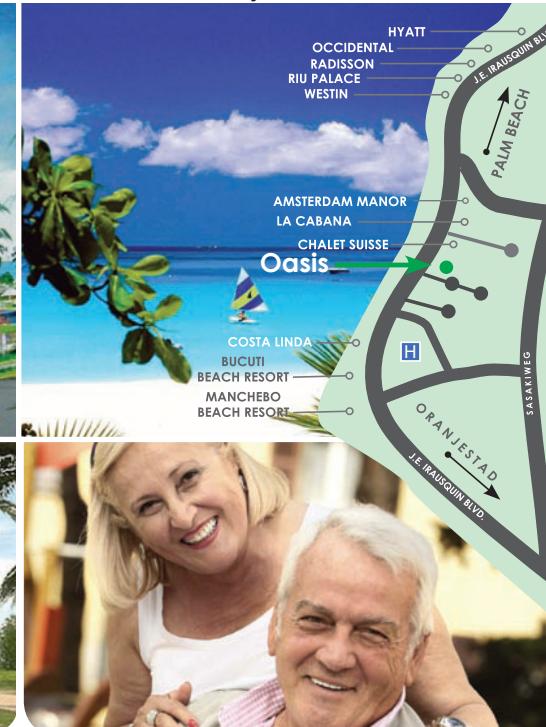
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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners. Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderfull view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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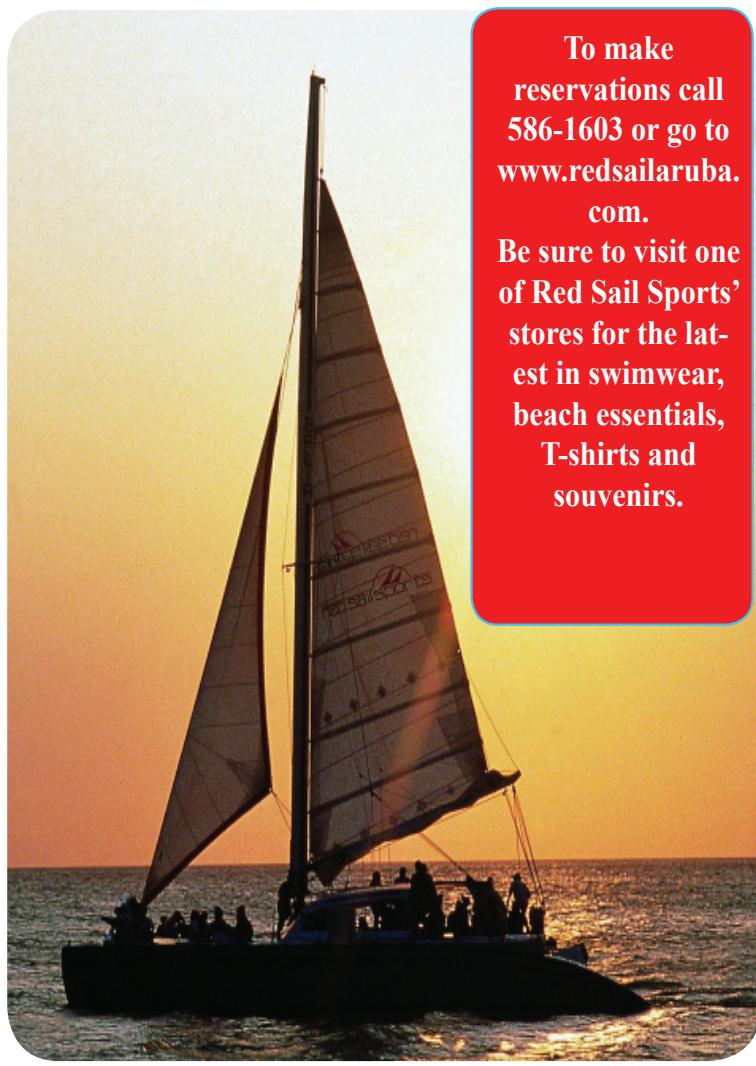
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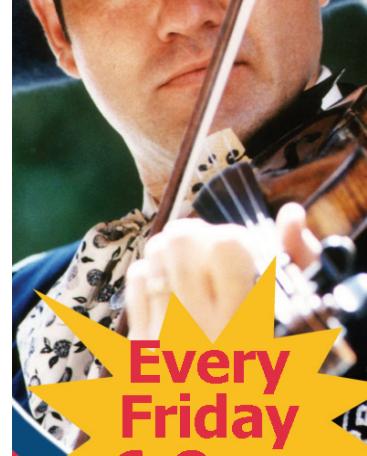
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red sail sports.




Luxury marina village offering free residence with superyacht slip

PHILLIPSBURGH - Porto Cupecoy is offering mega yacht slips for purchase at its new marina village, opening in December 2009, which will be the only resort-style marina catering to mega yachts on St. Maarten in the Caribbean. To celebrate the launch of these slips, Porto Cupecoy is offering a free residence with the purchase of a mega yacht slip.

A selected number of units are available for consumers who purchase one of the marina's 11 mega yacht slips, which can accommodate vessels up to 300 feet in length. This one-time-only offer is valid on purchases made between October 1, 2009 and January 29, 2010 with mega yacht slip prices varying from \$1.5 to 3.0 million.



Porto Cupecoy marina management will also facilitate the rental of unoccupied slips on behalf of their owners. With this unique marina model – the only one on the island to operate in this manner – slip owners will be able to earn residual revenue from the rental process when they are at sea.

A short, direct flight from most major East Coast hubs, Porto Cupecoy is comprised of 182 richly-appointed one- to four-bedroom residences, set in a harbor-side village with a European-Mediterranean ambiance. Porto Cupecoy's luxury marina, comprised of 54 slips on the protected western end of Simpson Bay Lagoon, will be the newest and one of the most upscale in



the Caribbean, serving as the social and commercial hub for the residence village.

Being a white-glove marina, patrons will have access to all village shops, grocery and dining facilities, and a range of services, including yacht provisioning and grocery stocking, VIP vessel concierge assistance, and other exciting marine activities. Onsite car and tender rental and water shuttles to the airport and throughout the lagoon are also available upon request.

Marina clients can also take full advantage of amenities such as: electrical and water connections on the dock, wireless internet, a full-service fuel dock and experienced tender assistance.

For more information call Porto Cupecoy Marina +599 545 2318 or visit www.portocupecoy.com □



Aruba TODAY

KEEP ARUBA CLEAN...



Questionable cuts

The FOL party has a point in criticising the cuts in the 2010 budget of the Antillean Ministry of Transport and Communication (see related article) during a meeting of the Central Committee of Parliament.

The fact that it involves the orange party's Minister Maurice Adriaens obviously plays a big part in the complaint. At the same time the question can be asked why the issue was not raised in the Council of Ministers, in particular with Minister of Finance Ersilia "Zus" de Lannooy of coalition partner PNP, who is responsible for the draft budget in the first place.

Some would argue that FOL is acting as though it is not part of the De Jongh-Elhage Cabinet and the Central Government coalition by bringing up the matter in Parliament rather than internally. However, one could also ask to what extent the Finance Minister should consult with colleagues on proposed cuts in their budgets before a draft budget is even sent to Parliament.

Judging by Adriaens' own reaction, he was either not consulted or overruled. Either way, the budget cuts don't seem to take into account sufficiently the constitutional developments.

After all, the Netherlands Antilles is being dismantled, with Curaçao and St. Maarten to become autonomous countries within the Dutch Kingdom effective 10-10-10. Since the to-be-eliminated Central Government is seated in Curaçao, especially St. Maarten faces quite a task in building up its own departments and ministries to take over responsibilities now handled in Willemstad.

Particularly aviation has been identified as an area where "The Friendly Island" has to start practically from scratch, but that is crucial to its tourism economy. As with other tasks to be transferred to the future countries in anticipation of the new relations in the Kingdom taking effect, the agreement was that the Central Government would redirect both human and financial resources to the respective islands.

Cutting into the budget of Transport and Communication for next year does not seem to be in keeping with that agreement. It involves, among other things, travel expenses and training, precisely matters that will require extra funds in light of the setting up of an adequate structure for Country St. Maarten.

If the De Jongh-Elhage Cabinet is serious about seeing through the process of constitutional change and giving especially St. Maarten the assistance it needs to prepare for country status, this should be reflected in the budget. St. Maarten's representatives in the Central Government and the Antillean Parliament would do well to support FOL in that sense. □

LICA President pleased with crowd support at cricket matches

CARIBE LUMBER
BALLPARK— Gregory Shillingford, President of the Leeward Islands Cricket Association (LICA), is pleased with the crowd support at the Nagico Leeward Islands Cricket Tournament at especially the semi-finals and finals at the Caribe Lumber Ballpark in St. Maarten. He is also pleased to see that more effort and interest is shown in Leeward Islands cricket, especially seeing that eight teams participated in this year's tournament as opposed to the six from last year. "St. Maarten, as a team is motivated because first time in history there are in the finals and that augers well for cricket in the Leeward Islands. The only regret he has of the preliminary matches in both

Zone A and B was the below par performance of the British and US Virgin Islands teams.

Regarding the tournament format that sees three matches played back to back for each team in the tournament, Shillingford said it's a concern if the players feel it is too taxing for them. However, he acknowledged that the current format is the nature of the tournament and the teams have to be prepared for that. "We are experiencing a financial crisis in the world right now so we need to be prudent in the way we spend our funds," Shillingford said. He noted though that under normal circumstances, this format was a "little stretch" for the players. "If we have more money there is more to spend

in doing it how we want, but I don't think that additional sponsorship is an issue here. LICA underwrites the main cost of the tournament, not Nagico," Shillingford said, adding that the individual associations had accepted the format of the tournament before it began. Concerning St. Kitts flying in late for their match last Friday, he noted that this is a local cricket association issue and LICA does not get involved in these matters.

Meanwhile, Shillingford is confident the Leeward Islands cricket selectors will select the best team to participate in the Leeward Islands team for the regional tournament in Guyana. "Making a good score or taking wickets in this tournament may not be the sole



LICA President Gregory Shillingford

factor in determining whether you have the skills at the higher level because the West Indies level is much higher than the Leeward Islands level so they (the selectors) will be

looking for batting, bowling and fielding skills that can match the skills level at the higher level so I expect they will try and give us the best team," Shillingford said. □

Heineken, ILTT to merge Nov 2

PHILIPSBURG—International Liquor & Tobacco Trading N.V. (formerly known as Philipsburg Liquor Store) and Heineken St. Maarten officially announced on Tuesday that they would be joining forces as of Monday, November 2.

A joint press release described the collaboration as a strategic partnership that joins "the largest liquor and beverage distributor on the island with the biggest beer brand on the island."

The integration will unite the two market leaders with a strong and diversified portfolio and a distribution network, customer service, management team and staff on which customers can rely, they said.

The combined company will operate under the name International Liquor & Tobacco Trading N.V., or ILTT, and operations will be consolidated at the International Liquor & Tobacco headquarters at Juancho Yrausquin Boulevard #89, Pointe Blanche.

The two organisations will begin implementing their integration plan immediately while they continue to operate as independent organisations until Friday, October 30. All Heineken and ILTT orders and deliveries will be processed from ILTT's headquarters in Pointe Blanche as of November 2.

"Together, ILTT and Heineken will be uniquely positioned to offer our customers a one-stop shopping experience. ILTT has solid positions in beer, spirits, energy drinks, tobacco and wine," ILTT Commercial Director Lenny Bain said. "We aim to provide the richest experience for customers. It is ILTT's vision to be the most celebrated consumer goods company in St. Maarten. We aim to consistently be rated the No. 1 industry partner by our customers."

Heineken St. Maarten Managing Director John Leone added, "This is an exciting time for the Heineken brand and we look forward to working with our new partners. The entire Heineken St. Maarten team will be moving to ILTT and every effort will be made to improve the already high level of services that our customers have come to expect from both organisations. This partnership will allow us to reduce cost and increase the service level to our customers."

ILTT Managing Director Ralph Lédée added, "We all feel strongly that the combination of our portfolios will offer an incredible value to our customers. We are very excited about welcoming the Heineken team and John Leone into our family business." □

Recruitment drive for new police officers 'going fine'

THE HAGUE—The recruitment of officers for the police force and prisons in the Netherlands Antilles is going fine, Chief Inspector Hermando "Mando" Davelaar said on Monday.

The first phase of the recruitment project led by Davelaar will be completed late next month, when the last information session takes place in Amsterdam. So far, there are 31 candidates who want to commence studies to become police officers, and 27 persons who work or have worked with the Dutch police force.

Selection will be held in December. Candidates making it through the selection process can be prepared for departure to the islands, said Davelaar. "The goal has been achieved, with six recruitment weeks still to go," he said in an interview with Curaçao newspaper Antilliaans Dagblad.

Information sessions have been planned to be held at Haagse Hogeschool and the Regional Study Centres in Rotterdam and Eindhoven, among other places, in the next six weeks.

Also planned are two

gatherings in cooperation with study financing organisations SSC of Curaçao and S4 of St. Maarten.

Davelaar's success is considered remarkable in comparison to a previous recruitment drive. The previous drive, undertaken in cooperation with the police force of Rotterdam-Rijnmond, failed and cost a lot of money, especially when considering that the result was almost zero.

With a limited budget and little means, Davelaar decided to work differently: through personal contacts and networking. By giving presentations and talking to prospective candidates, Davelaar managed to address many of the prejudices.

He explained to potential candidates that salaries weren't too bad and that there were ample possibilities to

get promoted in the Antillean police force.

According to Davelaar, the intention is to have all five islands profit equally from the recruitment project. "People can indicate their preference. Most opted for Curaçao. You can't force anyone, but you can guide them in the right direction. When I started at the police, I applied for Curaçao, and they subsequently stationed me in Aruba for 14 years," he said.

As part of the selection process, candidates will undergo various tests, including a Dutch language test, a physical and psychological test and a general test to see if they are suitable for the job.

The recruitment project ends in January, at which time Davelaar will return to Curaçao. He expects the first candidates to leave for the Antilles in April. □



BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

New Caribbean Cruise Sales Opportunity Ahead



Ideal weather year-round, dozens of picture-perfect tropical islands, incomparable beaches, boundless shopping bargains and easy proximity to a growing number of cities on America's coastlines have made the Caribbean the world's biggest, most popular cruise destination, says the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA). CLIA notes that cruise line members will showcase their newest ships on appealing Caribbean itineraries this winter and throughout 2010. Vacationers have numerous opportunities to take advantage of unbeatable last minute bargains, early booking savings and some of the best year-round vacation values anywhere in the world, across all price categories of cruising.

With Port Everglades, Port Canaveral and Miami at the top of the list, CLIA members offer Caribbean itineraries from easily reached embarkation ports on the East Coast and Gulf Coasts. Among the newer places to board a cruise ship to the tropics are Baltimore, Charleston, S.C., Mobile, AL and others. For West Coast residents, a Caribbean cruise is just a short flight away. A growing number of ports in the Caribbean region also offer the opportunity to visit as many islands as possible – in some cases, seven in seven days.

CLIA's list of the newest

developments in Caribbean cruises:

Azamara Cruises

Azamara Journey will sail a variety of Caribbean, Panama Canal and first-ever Sea of Cortez voyages between November 2010 and April 2011. The season features 23 ports in 13 different countries. The 12-night Caribbean itineraries are roundtrip from Miami, visiting ports in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, St. Martin, St. Kitts, Guadeloupe, St. Barts, St. Lucia and Dominica. Sixteen-night Panama Canal voyages sail between Miami and San Diego.

Carnival Cruise Lines

The largest Carnival ship ever constructed, the 3,646-passenger Carnival Dream launches year-round Caribbean service from Port Canaveral in December. Carnival also is increasing its capacity from Mobile, AL by 42 percent with the deployment of the Carnival Fantasy in November (to be replaced by Carnival Elation in May 2010) and by 34 percent from New Orleans when Carnival Triumph begins new Eastern and Western Caribbean cruises in November. And, beginning in May 2010, Carnival Fantasy will launch the first year-round cruise schedule from Charleston.

Celebrity Cruises

The 2,850-passenger Celebrity Equinox, the company's newest arrival, makes her debut in the Caribbean this winter with 10- and 11-night cruises from Port Everglades. Celebrity guests also have more East Coast ports to choose from, including Baltimore, Charleston and Bayonne (for Bermuda cruises) and can take advantage of lower airfares to San Juan where Celebrity Summit visits no fewer than five ports in a week. Celebrity Solstice will sail year-round in the Caribbean starting this winter.

Costa Cruises

With sailings from Fort Lauderdale, Costa Atlantica returns to the Caribbean with new, exclusive spa accommodations that feature personalized wellness consultations, complimentary spa treatments, fitness or meditation classes, complimentary access to the Wellness Restaurant and more. Guests on Costa Atlantica and Costa Fortuna can also take advantage of "Italy in the Tropics" with a "Free Upgrade" promotion and the popular "Kids Sail Free" program.

Cunard Line

Cunard is looking ahead to the 2010 Caribbean season and the arrival of its newest ship, the Queen Elizabeth, which will offer a debut 22-day Caribbean voyage roundtrip from Southampton departing December 14. The itinerary includes inaugural calls in Madeira, Tortola, Dominica, Barbados, St. Lucia, Antigua and the Azores. Queen Mary 2's 2010 season will feature three different itineraries, all roundtrip from New York and varying in length from 10- to 15 days.

Holland America Line

Offering diversity and a breadth of itinerary lengths from seven to 14 days, Holland America Line has nine ships sailing the Caribbean on 126 cruises from January to May and October to December. The line's newest ship, ms Nieuw Amsterdam, will offer seven-day western and eastern itineraries. Homeports are Ft. Lauderdale and Tampa. Some cruises include the Panama Canal and nearly all include the line's award-winning private island of Half Moon Cay, Bahamas.

MSC Cruises

Vacationers have until October 31 to take advantage of MSC Cruises' "Last-Minute" deals on select Caribbean cruises aboard the MSC Poesia. The five- and 10-night itineraries from Fort Lauderdale feature the southern or eastern Caribbean or Panama. For bookings made by October 16, complimentary balcony stateroom upgrades are available on select voyages. This year marks the Caribbean debut of the 1,275-passenger Poesia, which will offer cruises of three- to ten nights.

Norwegian Cruise Line

Next year marks the arrival of Norwegian Epic, Norwegian's largest and most innovative ship, which will begin her inaugural Caribbean season in July with alternating Eastern and Western Caribbean itineraries available as seven-day individual sailings or 14-day combined sailings and offered through April 2011. Norwegian also will seasonally homeport the 1,936-passenger Norwegian Sun in Port Canaveral beginning October 2010 for seven-day eastern and western Caribbean itineraries.

Oceania Cruises

Three of Oceania's seven

Caribbean itineraries for 2010/2011 will be new, including a 10-day "Mayan Mystique" voyage of the western Caribbean; a 14-day "Southern Treasures" cruise featuring overnights in Bermuda and Charleston; and a new springtime Panama Canal sailing. In addition, there will be two departures – November 27 and March 19 – for the 24-day "Amazon Adventure" and a 12-day holiday voyage. An introductory offer expiring March 31 includes free air and two-for-one pricing.

Princess Cruises

Princess will sail six ships on 13 Caribbean itineraries ranging from seven to 14 days this winter, with 129 departures visiting more than 25 ports in these fabled islands. Ruby Princess will take over the line's 10-day eastern and southern Caribbean itineraries, offering some of the less-visited ports in the region. Crown Princess' western Caribbean itinerary will feature Roatan, Honduras. Grand Princess returns with an extensive 14-day Caribbean Collection route and Sea Princess will again sail on 14-day voyages from Barbados.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises

Regent will be offering a full season of Caribbean cruises from December to April this winter aboard the newly-refurbished Seven Seas Navigator. During the 2009 refurbishment the ship received two brand new restaurants (Prime 7 and La Veranda) as well as a Canyon Ranch SpaClub. All roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale, the cruises feature two-for-one fares, free air from 22 North American gateways, free Unlimited Shore Excursions and government fees and taxes included in the fare.

Continued on Next Page

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Fed survey: housing, manufacturing drive recovery

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Improvements in housing and manufacturing are driving the early stages of the economic recovery, according to a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday.

The Fed's latest snapshot of business conditions

nationwide found "many sectors" of the economy either stabilized or logged modest improvements over the last six weeks. The pickups, though, often were from "depressed" levels of activity. Still, the new report adds to evidence that a recovery has started from the worst recession since the 1930s. Only two of the Fed's

12 regions — Atlanta and St. Louis — reported weaker overall economic activity. An \$8,000 credit for first-time homebuyers boosted the housing sector. There's been concern among private economists and some lawmakers that recent gains in housing will fizzle out when the credit ends. It is slated



FILE - In this June 17, 2009 file photo, James Sellers, left, vice president of AUS Manufacturing Co., watches one of his employees, Jimmy Payne, grind a piece of equipment at the plant in Bonifay, Fla. Improvements in housing and manufacturing are driving the early stages of the economic recovery, according to a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009.

(AP Photo/Phil Coale, file)

to expire Nov. 30, although some in Congress are mulling an extension. Meanwhile, factories increased production as businesses restocked depleted inventories. Part of that restocking was due to the now-defunct Cash for Clunkers rebate program, which caused a brief burst in car sales. Both housing and manufacturing continued a "pattern of improvement that emerged over the summer," the Fed observed.

By contrast, the Fed said weakest link in the recovery was commercial real estate. Conditions were described as "either weak or deteriorating" across all 12 regions surveyed.

Consumer spending also remained weak, the Fed said. Consumers, whose spending accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity, are expected to stay cautious

given rising job losses, stagnant incomes and hard-to-get credit.

"Reports of gains in economic activity generally outnumber declines, but virtually every reference to improvement was qualified as either small or scattered," the Fed survey said.

For instance, Dallas cited slight improvements in residential real estate and at staffing firms. New York noted gains predominantly in manufacturing and retail. Philadelphia, Cleveland and San Francisco cited small pickups in manufacturing. Kansas City noted upticks at technology companies, while Richmond observed revenue gains at service companies.

The nation's unemployment rate climbed to a 26-year high of 9.8 percent in September, and is expected to top 10 percent this year. □

CARIBBEAN CRUISE

Continued from Previous Page

Royal Caribbean International

Royal welcomes the largest ship in the world, the 5,400-passenger Oasis of the Seas, to Fort Lauderdale in November when the ship begins year-round Caribbean cruises. Looking ahead, sister ship Allure of the Seas joins the company's Caribbean fleet for the 2010-11 Caribbean season, which will feature year-round voyages from such ports as Port Everglades, Port of Miami, Port Canaveral, and San Juan, Puerto Rico; seasonal voyages from ports ranging from Cape Liberty to Galveston; and over 20 short itineraries to 15 ports in the Caribbean.

Seabourn Cruises

Seabourn is canceling a planned five-month deployment of Seabourn Legend in the Indian Ocean late next year. Instead, after summering in Europe, the 208-guest, all-suite Legend will return to the Americas and sail to Seabourn's "Uncommon Caribbean" in late 2010 and early 2011, making seven- to 14-day voyages from Fort Lauderdale and St. Thomas. With "Yachting Collection Savings," all-inclusive fares will start at \$1,999 for a 277-square foot ocean-view suite.

Seadream Yacht Club

As in previous years, 2009 and 2010 will find the small, 56-couple, mega-yacht cruisers SeaDream I and II sailing in the Caribbean in the winter months, calling not only at

vibrant port cities, but at small and exclusive seaside towns and villages where the big passenger ships can't go. The ships will sail the British and U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico's Virgin Islands; French West Indies, Netherlands Antilles and the Windward and Leeward Islands, with convenient Caribbean embarkation and debarkation ports.

Silversea Cruises

Travelers should plan ahead for the 2010 Caribbean season of Silversea's brand new vessel, Silver Spirit.

Beginning with a seven-day day roundtrip voyage from Bridgetown, Barbados, visiting Dominica, St. Bart's, St. Kitts and Bequia, the ship, will five additional voyages, ranging in length from 9-14 days. Silversea also offers a variety of golf programs on Caribbean/Mexico itineraries as well as culinary theme cruises featuring celebrity chefs and cooking demonstrations.

Windstar Cruises

Windstar Cruises premieres a new seven-day St. Martin roundtrip itinerary this season on the 148-guest Wind Spirit. Each week from December through March, Wind Spirit will sail roundtrip from St. Martin offering guests pristine beaches, lively island culture, lush tropics and additional daytime sailing. Port of calls include St. Kitts, Tortola, Jost Van Dyke, Virgin Gorda and St. Barts. The 312-guest Wind Surf offers 7-day roundtrip sailings from Barbados. □

pabien

Shoco Award Winners 2009



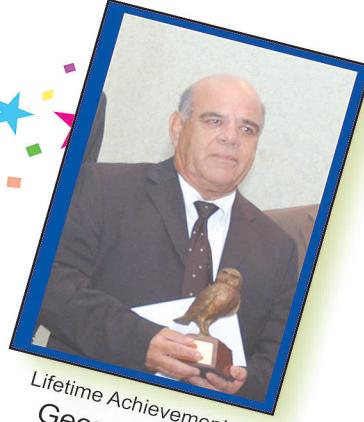
Employee of the year:
Coral Berkel
Concierge at the Hyatt Regency



Allied: Employee of the Year:
Betty Maduro
Activities Sales Associate at Red Sail Sports



Allied: Supervisor of the Year:
Judella Lacle - Tromp
Maintenance Supervisor with De Palm Tours



Lifetime Achievement:
George Hoek
Executive Chef at Manchebo



Young Professional of the Year:
Gerald Griffith
Sales Coordinator at the Hyatt Regency



Supervisor of the year:
Rosa Maduro
F&B Supervisor at Radisson



Supervisor of the year:
Margriet Geerman
Housekeeping Supervisor at The Aruban



Manager of the Year:
Oriana Carotenuto
Executive Housekeeper at the Hyatt Regency



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Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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PALM BEACH - Taste of Belgium's Bistro is located in the intimate courtyard of the Paseo Herencia Mall across from the Holiday Inn Resort. It is cozy and casual: one can have a drink with friends, have a quick bite before grabbing a movie or relax and lounge away the afternoon and evening in the balmy breeze underneath the stars. The Bistro's great selection of Belgian beers has drawn many beer lovers to the mall already, but it is its exquisite food, ample portions and great prices that keep folks coming back for more every night of the week.

The Bistro's menu offers everyone's favorites, but with a culinary Belgian twist. This might be an unusual

presentation, an awesome side dish, a stunning combination, a surprising regional dish or a dessert that takes you to heaven and back a few times. Good service and lots of smiles will surely make the Bistro one of your favorite places to go to. Open for coffee, lunch, drinks, dinner and cocktails.

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On Top Of The News

Email: arubatoday@gmail.com

Thursday, October 22, 2009

U.S. pressures Karzai; troop increase option in play

ANNE GEARAN

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States built pressure Wednesday on Afghan President Hamid Karzai, signaling that a troop increase could hinge on a successful runoff election and that the Obama administration would be receptive to a power-sharing deal between Karzai and his chief rival.

A coalition government or other political arrangement that included Karzai's rival, former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, could provide a critical internal check on Karzai, who is widely favored to win the presidential runoff set for Nov. 7.

President Barack Obama and Sen. John Kerry, who pressed the administration's interests in weekend talks with Karzai in Kabul, both hinted Wednesday that pending deliberations on possible U.S. troop increases in Afghanistan could be affected by the Afghan leader's behavior.

Karzai's weak and corruption-riddled government has been blamed in part for the resurgence of the Taliban and for widespread Afghan civilian disillusionment. The Afghan national election in August was marred by massive fraud that led to the discarding of a third of the results, providing a wedge for the United States to press Karzai to agree to the runoff with Abdullah.

Kerry, whose meetings with Karzai helped lead to the runoff agreement over the weekend, said Wednesday after a White House session with Obama that the president should wait until after new elections to make his decision on troop strength.

Obama himself said Wednesday in a television interview he might not



Head of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, U.S. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, disembarks a C-130 aircraft to attend a meeting with Commanders of Regional Command - North and Afghan National Security Force, ANSF, delegation in Mazar-e-Sharif, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009.

Associated Press

announce his decision on sending more troops until after the runoff.

Both statements had the subtle force of increasing pressure on Karzai by implying that the administration's decision on U.S. troop strength in Afghanistan might depend on how the runoff turns out.

The Democratic senator said Wednesday that it was not common sense for Obama to determine whether more U.S. troops should go to Afghanistan without knowing the election results. "You really want to know that this has worked, and you want to know what's coming out of it," Kerry said.

Officials said Obama's spending decision had prominently figured in the U.S. discussions

with Karzai about how to resolve the political impasse. Several officials stressed that the looming troop plan decision was not used overtly to force Karzai to concede on the election's contested first round, but one highly placed U.S. official in Afghanistan said the United States used Obama's deliberation over troop numbers as leverage. That official spoke on condition of anonymity because Obama has not announced whether he will agree to a U.S. military request for thousands of additional forces.

Karzai and Abdullah settled on the runoff following weeks of acrimony over Afghanistan's fraud-pocked national election.

Continued on Next Page

Man accused of plot to kill U.S. politicians

DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — A man and two friends tried and failed to get into terrorist training camps and then plotted to kill two prominent U.S. politicians and randomly shoot people at American shopping malls, authorities said Wednesday.

Tarek Mehanna, who recently taught at a Muslim school in Worcester, was arrested early Wednesday at his parents' suburban Boston home. Mehanna was charged with conspiring with two other men — an American now in Syria and another man who is cooperating with authorities — to provide support to terrorists.

Continued on Page B5



This Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009, booking photo released by the Sudbury, Mass., police department shows Tarek Mehanna, 27, of Sudbury after he was arrested and charged with conspiring with others to plot terror attacks against shoppers in U.S. malls and against U.S. military in Iraq.

Associated Press



Iran's Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, left, speaks to media after talks between Iran and the United States, Russia and France over Iran's nuclear program, on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009, at Vienna's International Center. Iran has agreed to a draft deal that would see it ship out most of its enriched uranium to Russia, the International Atomic Energy Agency and diplomats said Wednesday.

Associated Press

Iran envoy backs uranium deal, but will Tehran?

GEORGE JAHN,

Associated Press Writer

VIENNA (AP) — A top Iranian negotiator has praised a plan that would ship most of his country's uranium abroad for enrichment and limit its ability to build a nuclear weapon. There was no guarantee, however, that Tehran's leaders would accept the idea.

Continued on Page B8



Abdullah Abdullah, former Afghan foreign minister who ran against President Hamid Karzai in last August's vote, speaks with journalists after a press conference in Kabul, Afghanistan on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009. President Hamid Karzai's chief political rival agreed Wednesday to take part in the Nov. 7 runoff election, setting the stage for a high-stakes showdown in the face of Taliban threats and approaching winter snows.

Associated Press

KARZAI

Continued from Page B1

But both sides also are considering a coalition government that could either replace the runoff or follow it.

A State Department official

said Wednesday that the U.S. would not be opposed to a power-sharing deal, depending on its legitimacy and how it was implemented. Obama appeared to allude to the still-fluid discussions Wednesday.

"I think we're still in — finding out how this whole process in Afghanistan is going to unfold," Obama said in an interview on MSNBC. One senior defense official said that a power-sharing deal at this point had equal odds of coming together or falling apart.

While careful to say that any power-sharing deal would have to come from the Afghans and not the United States, American officials were clear that Karzai's reluctant acceptance of a runoff vote may not be enough by itself.

Karzai and Abdullah have publicly dismissed the idea of sharing power, but there have been reports of private horsetrading discussions before and since Tuesday's announcement of the runoff. Kerry told reporters after meeting with Obama on Wednesday that in Afghanistan he "did not discuss nor did I even attempt to put on the table the concept

of a coalition."

It would be inappropriate to raise that possibility and would make it seem to Afghans that the United States was calling the shots, Kerry said. However, he acknowledged the issue was being discussed in Kabul, and said there may have been talks between the Karzai and Abdullah camps on it "even today."

In an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press, Kerry said the discussions with Karzai grew intense at times.

"I turned up the dial a few times, believe me," Kerry said.

He added: "They were very emotional. And they were very passionate and very heated at times but nicely heated. You know there was never anger, there was always the intensity of the argument."

State Department spokesman Ian Kelly told reporters that Abdullah's camp had

expressed interest in a coalition or power-sharing deal, and that some Karzai aides, concerned about the results of a runoff, are willing to consider the idea despite the president's public repudiation of the idea.

That official said the U.S. would support any course that leads to the formation of a credible government in the eyes of the Afghan people.

That could include a coalition or other power-sharing arrangement that is either formed to eliminate the need for a second round or one that is created using the results of the runoff.

But there are no provisions for a coalition in the Afghan Constitution, and it is not clear how such a deal would work or remain enforceable. The most important near-term goal for the U.S. was Karzai's acceptance of election commission results and his recognition that the impasse must be resolved. □



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Taser tells police to avoid shooting at chest

AMANDA LEE MYERS

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Stun-gun maker Taser International has started telling police agencies to avoid firing the devices at suspects' chests, explaining that there's an "extremely low" risk of ill effects on the heart and that doing so will make defending lawsuits easier.

Amnesty International says more than 350 people in the U.S. died after they were shocked with Tasers, and that in 50 of those cases, medical examiners cited a link between Taser shocks and death.

The Scottsdale, Arizona-based company made the recommendation in an Oct. 12 revised training manual, saying it "has less to do with safety and more to do with effective risk management for law enforcement agencies."

The manual also includes a lengthy explanation about deaths caused by sudden cardiac arrest.

"Should sudden cardiac arrest occur in a scenario involving a Taser discharge to the chest area, it would place the law enforcement agency, the officer, and

Taser International in the difficult situation of trying to ascertain what role, if any, (the device) could have played," according to the manual.

The manual includes a graphic displaying the human body and "preferred target areas." The company recommends firing Tasers anywhere but at the head, neck and chest. The manual says to avoid chest shots "when possible" and "unless legally justified."

Taser critics call the company's new recommendation an admission that the devices can cause heart attacks.

"It's a sea change, a passive acknowledgment that Taser has indeed been overconfident about its claims of safety," said Mark Silverstein, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado. "It underscores the question marks that have been adding up along with hundreds of bodies."

Taser officials say the new recommendation is designed only to "avoid



Brian Black of Taser International demonstrates their X26 model at a trade show for the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in Montreal August 26, 2008.

Reuters Photo

any potential controversy on this topic."

"There is no significant shift," Taser spokesman Steve Tuttle said in an e-mail. "Just a slight change by literally a few inches when intentionally targeting the preferred target zone ... Medical and field studies continue to demonstrate that the Taser carries a lower risk of injury than traditional force options, leading to

lower officer injury rates and safer communities."

Tasers are used by 14,200 law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. Human rights groups have long said that Tasers cause heart attacks, but Tuttle said there have been 96 lawsuits that the company won or judges dismissed.

He said Taser has lost just one case, which is under

appeal.

Phoenix police Sgt. Trent Crump said his agency is now in the beginning stages of teaching officers to avoid aiming Tasers at the chest when possible.

"Our primary target still continues to be and has always been the back," he said. "You're talking about adjusting your front shot, lowering the shot when possible." □

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Dems eye insurance industry's antitrust protection



Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., center, accompanied by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., right, and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks during a news conference on health insurance companies, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

DAVID ESPO,
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Senate Democrats intend to try to strip the health insurance industry of its exemption from federal antitrust laws, according to congressional officials, the latest evidence of a deepening struggle over President Barack Obama's effort to overhaul the health

care industry.

If enacted, the switch would mean greater federal regulation for an industry that recently has stepped up its criticism of portions of a health care bill moving toward the Senate floor.

Obama is proposing most far-reaching overhaul in decades, which aims to protect millions who have unreliable insurance

coverage or none at all in the only major industrialized country without universal health care.

Congressional officials said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, arranged to make the announcement Wednesday, joined by Sen.

Associated Press

Chuck Schumer of New York.

The officials who disclosed the plans did so on condition of anonymity to avoid pre-empting a formal announcement.

In a statement, the major industry trade group, America's Health Insurance Plans, said the industry already was one of the most regulated in the country. The focus on the industry's antitrust exemption, it said, was "a political ploy designed to distract attention away from the real issue of rising health care costs."

The move against the antitrust exemption came as Obama appealed to congressional Democrats not to let internal differences sink his comprehensive plan to remake the nation's health care system.

"The bill you least like" improves coverage for millions, he said in New York. "Let's make sure that we keep our eye on the prize."

After months of struggle, Democratic leaders in the House and Senate hope to

have legislation ready for votes in both houses within a few weeks, and plan on having a compromise measure ready for Obama's signature by the end of the year.

Progress has been slow, particularly as Democrats squabble over whether to allow the federal government to sell insurance in direct competition with private insurers, and if so, under what terms. Obama's remarks appeared an attempt to place that and similar disagreements in a larger context — a decades-long attempt to provide insurance for millions who lack it while cracking down on insurance industry practices such as denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions.

Insurance industry officials have been involved in discussions for months with the White House and key congressional Democrats over proposed legislation. They repeatedly said they would accept a series of new restrictions, as long as the legislation required Americans to purchase insurance, thus assuring insurers millions of new customers.

The tone changed last week after the Senate Finance Committee approved legislation that exempted an estimated 2 million individuals from the requirement to purchase insurance and greatly reduced the penalties on those still subject to the requirement.

In a report paid for by the insurance industry, the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers said the legislation would add \$1,700 a year to the cost of family coverage in 2013 when most of the major provisions of the Senate Finance Committee bill would be in effect.

The White House, Democrats in Congress and other supporters of the legislation attacked the study as flawed and deceptive.

Within a few days, Leahy convened a Judiciary Committee meeting to air the possibility of revoking the industry's antitrust exemption. □

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PLOT TO KILL

Continued from Page B1

Ultimately, the trio never came close to pulling off an attack. Authorities say they never got the terrorist training they sought — that the men told friends they were turned down because of their nationality, ethnicity or inexperience, or that the people they'd hoped would get them into such camps were either in jail or on a religious pilgrimage.

The men abandoned the mall attack plans after their weapons contact said he could find only handguns, not automatic weapons.

The men used code words such as "peanut butter and jelly" for fighting in Somalia and "culinary school" for terrorist camps, and talked extensively of their desire to "die on the battlefield," according to court documents.

Mehanna, who has taught math and religion at Alhuda Academy, made a defiant court appearance hours after his arrest. He refused to stand to hear the charge against him and finally did — tossing his chair loudly to the floor — only after his father urged him to do so.

"This really, really is a show," his father, Ahmed Mehanna, said as his son was being led away in handcuffs. When asked if he believed the charges against his son, he said, "No, definitely not." Prosecutors said Mehanna worked with two men from

2001 to May 2008 on the conspiracy that, over time, intended to "kill, kidnap, maim or injure" soldiers and two politicians who were members of the executive branch but are no longer in office. Authorities refused to identify the politicians and said they were never in danger. Acting U.S. Attorney Michael Loucks said the men justified the planned attacks on malls because U.S. civilians pay taxes to support the U.S. government and because they are "nonbelievers," Loucks said. He refused to identify the targeted malls.

Mehanna — who received a doctorate in 2008 from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in Boston, where his father is a professor — allegedly conspired with Ahmad Abousamra, who authorities say is now in Syria.

Mehanna, 27, is being held without bail until his next court appearance on Oct. 30. Mehanna first was arrested in November and charged with lying to the FBI in December 2006 when asked the whereabouts of Daniel Maldonado, who is now serving a 10-year prison sentence for training with al-Qaida to overthrow the Somali government.

Authorities said Wednesday that Mehanna and his conspirators had contacted Maldonado about getting automatic weapons for their planned mall attacks, but he

told them he could only get handguns.

Court documents filed by the government say that in 2002, Abousamra became frustrated after repeatedly being rejected to join terror groups in Pakistan — first Lashkar e Tayyiba, then the Taliban.

"Because Abousamra was an Arab (not Pakistani) the LeT camp would not accept him, and because of Abousamra's lack of experience, the Taliban camp would not accept him," Williams wrote in the affidavit.

Mehanna and Abousamra traveled to Yemen in 2004 in an attempt to join a terrorist training camp, according to court documents.

Mehanna allegedly told a friend, the third conspirator who is now cooperating with authorities, that their trip



Warren Bamford of the FBI, right, speaks at a news conference Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009, in Boston where it was announced that Tarek Mehanna, 27, of Sudbury, Mass., has been charged with conspiring with others to plot terror attacks against shoppers in U.S. malls and against U.S. military in Iraq. Watching is Michael Loucks, left, acting U.S. Attorney, and Mark Delaney, second from left, head of Massachusetts State Police.

Associated Press

was a failure because they were unable to reach people affiliated with the camps.

Abousamra said he was

rejected by a terror group when he sought training in Iraq because he was American, authorities said. □



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22 die as one train rams another in northern India



People look on after Goa Express train, left, rammed into the stationary Mewar Express train, right, near Agra, about 210 kilometers (130 miles) southeast of New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009. A passenger train crashed into another train's rear carriage reserved for women and disabled passengers on Wednesday near the Taj Mahal in northern India, police said.

Associated Press

ASHOK SHARMA

Associated Press Writer

NEW DELHI (AP) — A passenger train in northern India crashed into another train's rear carriage reserved for women and disabled passengers, killing 22 people and injuring 16 who remained trapped for hours Wednesday near Agra, the home of the Taj Mahal, police said.

Rescuers had to cut open the wrecked compartment to free trapped passengers following the crash outside Agra, about 130 miles (210 kilometers) southeast of New Delhi, said Rajesh Bajpai, a railway spokesman.

Rescuers recovered 19 bodies during an operation that lasted nearly seven hours, said Rajesh Dixit, a police spokesman. Three of the 19 injured people died at a hospital, police said.

No foreigners were among the victims, Dixit said.

The smashed coach was reserved for women and physically handicapped

people, although some other people may have been among the victims, district Magistrate Suresh Chandra Sharma said.

The two trains were heading to New Delhi from southern India. The Mewar Express was stopped at a red signal when the other train rammed it from behind, Sharma, the district magistrate, told The Associated Press.

"We felt a massive jolt," said Ramesh Charan, a passenger aboard the Mewar Express. "Some people sleeping on upper berths fell to the coach floor by the impact of the collision."

Villagers and army soldiers stationed nearby helped police and rail officials in rescuing injured people.

Authorities are still trying to determine why the accident happened, rail official Sri Prakash said.

Accidents are common on India's sprawling rail network, which is one of the world's largest, with most blamed on poor maintenance. □



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<input type="checkbox"/> PG	TOY STORY 2 3D	daily: 4:00	6:00	late show:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NEW		matinee: 12:00	2:00		

THE PRIVATE LIVE OF PIPPA LEE

<input type="checkbox"/> R		daily: 6:45	9:00	late show: 11:15	
		matinee:			

HET GEHEIM VAN MEGA MINDY

<input type="checkbox"/> PG		daily: 3:30	5:15	7:15	9:15	
		matinee: 12:00	1:45		11:00	

FAME

<input type="checkbox"/> PG		daily: 5:00	7:15	9:30	
		matinee: 12:30	2:45	late show: 11:45	

FINAL DESTINATION 4

<input type="checkbox"/> R		daily:		8:00	10:00
		matinee:		late show: 12:00	

SORORITY ROW

<input type="checkbox"/> R		daily: 4:15	6:30	8:45	10:00
		matinee: 1:45		late show: 11:00	

SUSKE & WISKE

<input type="checkbox"/> PG		daily:		4:30	
		matinee: 12:15		2:30	late show:

THE STEPFATHER

<input type="checkbox"/> R		daily: 1:15	6:15	8:30	11:00
		matinee: 3:45		late show: 11:00	

AT PASEO HERENCIA

<input type="checkbox"/> PG-13	COPLES RETREAT	daily: 5:00	7:30	9:45	
		matinee: 12:00	2:30	late show: 12:00	

LAW ABIDING CITIZEN

<input type="checkbox"/> R		daily: 6:00	8:45		
		matinee: 12:30	3:15	late show: 11:30	

TOY STORY 2 3D

<input type="checkbox"/> NEW		daily: 12:15	2:15	4:15	6:15
		matinee:		late show:	

FINAL DESTINATION 4

<input type="checkbox"/> R		daily: 8:15	10:15		
		matinee:		late show: 12:15	

ZOMBIELAND

<input type="checkbox"/> R		daily: 4:00	6:00	8:00	10:00
		matinee: 12:00	2:00	late show: 12:00	

SURROGATE

<input type="checkbox"/> PG-13		daily: 4:15	6:30	8:45	
		matinee: 1:45		late show: 11:15	

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		matinee: 3:15		late show: 11:00	

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Sudanese cargo plane crashes north of Dubai

ADAM SCHRECK

Associated Press Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A Sudanese cargo plane crashed shortly after takeoff Wednesday from Sharjah airport near Dubai, killing at least six crew members.

The Boeing 707 operated by Sudan Airways went down in unpopulated desert about two miles (three kilometers) north of the airport, said Sheik Khalid al-Qassimi, director of the Sharjah department of civil aviation. He said there were no survivors among the six crew members aboard.

Sudan's official SUNA news agency quoted an unnamed official from the airline as saying seven crew members were killed. The discrepancy in the toll could not immediately be reconciled.

As night fell, the cause of the crash remained unclear. The "black box" flight recorders that should contain information about the flights have been recovered, al-Qassimi said. Witnesses described seeing the plane swing sharply to the right shortly after takeoff as it struggled to gain altitude.

"We saw it taking off at quite a low level. The nose was quite high. Higher than normal," said Bill Buchanan, a Dubai

resident who was playing golf nearby. "It veered to the right, then nosed down straight into the desert. There was a huge ball of fire and smoke."

The wreckage was spread over a wide area near the Sharjah Golf & Shooting Club. Little of the plane remained intact. A tower of black smoke poured hundreds of feet into the air immediately after the crash, said Martin Duff, who was in his office at the golf academy when he heard a loud jet pass by overhead.

"A couple of seconds later there was a big bang, and the whole ground shuddered," he said. He rushed to the scene, about 50 yards (meters) away. "By the time I got there, it was nothing but burnt black wreckage."

Local TV station Sharjah Television showed firefighters later hosing down smoldering pieces of debris at the crash site. Plumes of gray smoke rose high into the air.

A large chunk of the plane's wing was seen amid smaller metal pieces. Rescue workers with face masks carried away stretchers covered with white sheets.

At sundown, crash investigators were working under flood lights as pieces of debris continued to smolder.

Officials said the flight was operated by Sudan Airways and was bound for the Sudanese capital, Khartoum. The plane itself, however, was owned by a private Sudan-based company, Azza Transport, according to SUNA and a spokesman for the Sudan Civil Aviation Authority, Abdel Hafez Abdel Rahim.

Efforts to reach Sudan Airways and Azza were unsuccessful. Issam Awad, the Sudanese consul in Dubai, told AP Television News that the plane's pilot and co-pilot were from Sudan Airways, while four other crew members worked for Azza.

The four-engine Boeing 707 is an older model airplane that was primarily in use during the 1960s and 1970s.

The airport is located southeast of central Sharjah, a teeming city bordering Dubai that is home to many low-wage workers in the Middle East business hub.

It was once one of the main airports in the lower Gulf, but has long since been eclipsed by Dubai's growing airport. Dubai International Airport, the Middle East's busiest, is located about 10 miles (16 kilometers) southwest of Sharjah airport. Sharjah's airstrip is primarily



A rescue team sift through the debris of a Sudanese cargo plane after it crashed shortly after take-off from Sharjah International Airport north of Dubai, in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates Wednesday Oct. 21, 2009. A Sudanese cargo plane crashed Wednesday shortly after takeoff from Sharjah International Airport north of Dubai, killing the entire six-member crew but causing no other casualties on the ground, an official said. The Boeing 707 went down in an unpopulated area about two miles (three kilometers) from the airport.

Associated Press

used for cargo flights and by low-cost carriers. Air Arabia, the Mideast's biggest budget airline, is based at the airport. The airport handles at least 1,800 aircraft and some 100,000 passengers every month, according to its Web site.

In February 2004, an Iranian plane crashed as it approached Sharjah airport on its way from the Iranian island of Kish in the Persian Gulf. More than 40 people, most of them migrant workers, were killed

when the Kish Air Fokker-50 went down.

Sudan, Africa's largest country, has a poor aviation safety record and many small airlines crisscross its sprawling terrain.

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir in June fired the chief of the country's Civil Aviation Authority, Gen. Abu Bakar Gaafar, and banned Russian-made cargo planes from operating in Sudan's civil aviation, according to SUNA □

Kuwait grants women passports without spousal nod



In this Dec. 7, 2008 file photo, a Kuwaiti family walks by Marina Salmiya, in Kuwait City. Kuwait's highest court granted women the right to obtain a passport without their husband's approval, the case's lawyer said Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009 in the latest stride for women's rights in this small oil-rich emirate.

DIANA ELIAS

KUWAIT CITY (AP)

— Kuwait's highest court granted women the right to obtain a passport without their husband's approval, the case's lawyer said Wednesday, in the latest stride for women's rights in this small oil-rich emirate. Unlike with highly conservative neighbors like Saudi Arabia, women in Kuwait can vote, serve in parliament and drive — and now can obtain their own passports.

In many countries in the region,

Associated Press

women cannot travel or obtain a passport without the consent of their male guardian.

Attorney Adel Qurban, whose case the court was ruling on, said the landmark decision "freed" Kuwaiti women from the 1962 law requiring their husband's signature to obtain a passport.

His client, Fatima al-Baghli, is one of thousands of women who have been petitioning courts for this right.

The court found the article in the decades-old law "unconstitutional" because

it goes against the principle of equal rights for men and women.

"It undermines her free will and compromises her humanity," the court explained according to a copy of the decision provided by the lawyer.

Activist Aisha al-Rsheid hailed Tuesday's ruling, but said females in this traditional male-dominated society were

still a long way from the equality promised by the 1962 constitution.

"We want to see women judges and prosecutors, we want women to give their citizenship to their children, and we want women to have the right to state-provided houses," just like men, she said. With its history as a trading community, Kuwait

has long been more liberal than the Bedouin societies in the interior of the Arabian peninsula and its 1962 constitution provides for a parliament and equality of the sexes. Conservative elements in the country, however, have long promoted a stricter interpretation of Islam, especially regarding relations between men and women. □



An Israeli naval submarine, right, sails past a USS warship during a drill in the port of Haifa, northern Israel, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009. The Israeli and U.S. militaries began a major joint air defense exercise Wednesday, highlighting military ties between the two allies at a time of heightened tensions over the prospect of a nuclear Iran.

Associated Press

In seven years of back-and-forth diplomatic wrangling, Iran has appeared to accept previous proposals meant to ease fears it might be seeking weapons capability — only to later reject those same proposals. The West says that has given the country time to build its civilian nuclear program and its capacity to generate fissile warhead material.

At the end of three days of talks, International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei said Wednesday that representatives of Iran and its three interlocutors — the U.S., Russia and France — had accepted his draft agreement for forwarding to their capitals. ElBaradei said he hoped for approval from all four countries by Friday, adding: "I cross my fingers." Iran's refusal to curb its enrichment program has led to three sets of U.N. Security Council sanctions, and it was unclear whether the leaders of the Islamic Republic were ready to deal away their strategic leverage and compromise on their quest for nuclear independence.

"It was acceptable to our team out there, but we want to give it ... a chance to be seen by a broader range of people in the interagency here. But I expect we'll be able to approve it," he said.

Kelly also praised ElBaradei. "We welcome this effort and we very much support everything that he's doing," he said.

Neither Soltanieh nor Elbaradei gave details of

IRAN ENVOY

Continued from Page B1

what was in the package. But diplomats told The Associated Press that it was essentially the original proposal drawn up by the IAEA that would commit Tehran to shipping 75 percent of its enriched uranium stockpile to Russia for further enrichment within the next two months. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because the meetings were confidential.

Sending such a large amount of enriched uranium outside Iran would temporarily get rid of most of the material it needs to make a bomb.

After that material is turned into metal fuel rods, it would then be shipped back to Iran to power its small research reactor in Tehran, according to the draft.

Beyond postponing Iran's ability to turn the material into the fissile core of atomic warheads, agreement by Tehran would contribute to building trust between the West and Tehran over the country's nuclear ambitions and help pave the way for a new round of talks on the Islamic Republic's nuclear program.

After the first meeting between Iran and six world powers in more than a year earlier this month, the U.S. and its Western allies said Iran had agreed in principle to ship out most of its enriched stockpile.

Iranian officials subsequently denied that — and a statement on Iran's official IRNA news agency just hours after Wednesday's closing session in Vienna suggested the leadership was far from rubber-stamping the latest proposal. □

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Murders in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, at all-time high

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — A violent and ongoing battle between two powerful drug cartels has pushed this northern border city's murder rate — already one of the highest in the world — to new records in 2009, according to a government report issued Wednesday.

Ciudad Juarez has had 1,986 homicides — almost all drug-related — through mid-October this year, up from 1,171 for the same period in 2008, said the report from the Chihuahua state attorney general's office. There have been 195 murders this month alone, officials said.

The killings, averaging seven a day in the city of 1.5 million, can be blamed on an escalating drug war between the Sinaloa cartel run by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the most-wanted man in Mexico, and the Juarez Cartel, said Chihuahua state Public Safety Secretary Victor Valencia. The cartels are fighting to control the lucrative smuggling route between Ciudad Juarez and El Paso, just across the border in Texas.

The U.S. is gravely concerned about the ongoing violence, said newly appointed U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual. "Drug trafficking is a threat to the entire hemisphere. It is a threat that has points of supply and demand and traffic ... and we have to analyze the problem as well,"

engage, invest in resources and capabilities to address all those issues," Pascual said Wednesday at a news conference after a meeting with Mexican President Felipe Calderon to present his diplomatic credentials.

While Ciudad Juarez is clearly the most violent city in Mexico, cartel battles continue to take lives throughout the country.

In the central town of Hidalgo on Wednesday, police were trying to identify the body of a young man, about 16 years old, who was found dead with two bullets in his head, his genitals cut off and a warning note stabbed into his chest.

The body, dressed in a navy-blue school uniform, was found Tuesday evening by local residents. □



federal agents escort alleged drug cartel hitmen, from left: Roberto Salas, Luis Alfredo Galindo, Fernando Monte Godina, Sergio Estrada Gutierrez and Julio Cesar Aleman during their presentation to the press in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Friday Sept. 25, 2009. Police said Friday the men, who are accused of dozens of murders, including two mass killings at drug treatment centers in this northern Mexico border city, are members of the Sinaloa cartel.

Associated Press

Lithuanian lawmakers demand CIA prison probe

LIUDAS DAPKUS

Associated Press Writer

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) — Lithuanian lawmakers on Wednesday demanded an investigation into allegations that the CIA established a prison for al-Qaida suspects in the Baltic country.

The Parliament's National Security and Defense Committee said it wants the full 141-member assembly to approve the probe next week. Lithuanian leaders have denied that the former Soviet republic — a close U.S. ally

in the war on terror — hosted clandestine detention centers.

Poland and Romania have denied similar allegations.

The call for an investigation came a day after President Dalia Grybauskaite said she had "indirect suspicions" about a secret CIA prison in Lithuania.

Defense committee chairman Arvydas Anusauskas said the investigation was necessary and that the committee wanted to question "certain persons" about the existence of a possible CIA prison. He

did not specify who he had in mind.

An ABC News report in August said the CIA had a secret prison in Vilnius from September 2004 through November 2005, and used it to detain and interrogate al-Qaida prisoners captured around the world after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks.

Former President Valdas Adamkus and former Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas, who were both in office at the time the center was supposedly built, rejected the report.

But after a meeting Tuesday with a top European human rights official, President Grybauskaite said the allegations of a CIA prison should be taken seriously because they put Lithuania's reputation at stake.

"I have indirect suspicions — and not only me, but the entire international community," she said. "If there was such a thing, Lithuania should come clean, take responsibility, and promise that it will never happen again." □



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A-Rod launches Yankees to brink of World Series

GREG BEACHAM,
AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Alex Rodriguez homered in the third straight game of his outstanding postseason and CC Sabathia allowed just five hits over eight resilient innings on short rest as the New York Yankees beat the Los Angeles Angels 10-1 Tuesday to take a 3-1 lead in the American League championship series. Rodriguez had three hits and scored three runs, while Melky Cabrera drove in four runs for the Yankees, who have built a commanding cushion in this series and are now potentially one game away from a return to the World Series.

One day after the Angels handed New York its first playoff loss in an extra-inning thriller, the Yankees calmly asserted control with two early rallies before piling on five runs late.

Johnny Damon added a late two-run homer for the Yankees, who could sew up their first trip to the World Series in six years with a win in Game 5 on Thursday night at Angel Stadium. New York's



New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez reacts in front of home plate umpire Jerry Layne after scoring during the fourth inning of Game 4 of the American League Championship baseball series against the Los Angeles Angels Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009, in Anaheim, Calif. Rodriguez scored from third on a ball hit by Robinson Cano.

Associated Press

A.J. Burnett faces Angels ace John Lackey.

With a two-run homer over the left-field fence that silenced an excited Anaheim crowd in the fifth, Rodriguez

drove in a run in his eighth straight postseason game, tying the major league record. It was his fifth homer in New York's seven postseason games, matching Reggie

Jackson's iconic 1977 effort for the second-most homers in a single playoff year for the Yankees.

Bernie Williams holds the New York record with six

homers in 1996, but that mark seems ripe to be toppled by A-Rod in the first phenomenal postseason for a superstar who mostly sputtered in October until now.

Rodriguez also singled and scored New York's first run in the fourth, and he doubled and scored on an error in the ninth to cap his do-it-all day.

After playing 24 innings over 9 1/2 hours and making a coast-to-coast flight over the previous three days, both teams needed a no-nonsense victory. Sabathia came through for the Yankees in his second win of the series, providing rest for New York's taxed bullpen while further frustrating Los Angeles' lineup, which is foundering in the playoffs after an outstanding regular season. The Yankees' \$161 million left-hander yielded two walks and struck out five, throwing 101 pitches. After he retired Torii Hunter on a weak grounder to end the eighth, thousands of fans stood up and left Angel Stadium, not sticking around for the final demise of their suddenly punchless club. □



U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover makes his approach shot to the 11th green on the final round of the PGA Grand Slam of Golf at the Port Royal Golf Course, in Southampton, Bermuda, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009. Glover won by closing with 5-under 66 to finish five shots ahead of Masters champion Angel Cabrera of Argentina.

Associated Press

SOUTHAMPTON, Bermuda (AP) — U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover won the PGA Grand Slam of Golf by closing

Glover wins Grand Slam in Bermuda

Cabrera also had a 66 and finished second after British Open champ Stewart Cink bogeyed the last hole for a 70. U.S. PGA winner Y.E. Yang, still struggling with jet lag after a flight full of delays from South Korea, shot 70 to finish last among the four major champions.

Glover brought a new set of irons to start getting ready for next year, and it worked out beautifully at Port Royal Golf Course.

"I brought out new irons this week with the new grooves just to try and see how they work, because I wanted a couple of rounds under my belt with this new model," Glover said. "So Nike made a good set, and I

think I like them."

A new rule changing the dimensions of grooves in irons starts next year, although it is expected to affect wedges the most, and Glover kept his old wedges in the bag this week because he didn't want to give up too much of an advantage.

Ultimately, he won with his putter, especially the birdie putts on the ninth, 10th and 11th holes to pull away. Cink made bogey on the 12th and 13th, eliminating any drama in Bermuda.

Glover finished at 11-under 131 and earned \$600,000, pushing his total for the year over \$4 million.

Cabrera, who won the Grand Slam two years ago when it first

moved to Bermuda, finished at 136 and made \$300,000. Cink earned \$250,000 and Yang took home \$200,000.

For at least a couple of hours, it looked as though the 36-hole event might be headed for a playoff for the third straight year.

Cink opened with two birdies, and another birdie at No. 5 gave the British Open champ the lead. Glover's birdie on the ninth put him in a tie for the lead as they headed to the back nine, and it was over four holes later. Glover birdied the next two holes, Cink followed with two bogeys and no one else had a serious chance of catching the U.S. Open champ. □

NHL Roundup

Penguins win sixth straight, top Blues 5-1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins earned their sixth straight win by beating the St. Louis Blues 5-1 in the NHL on Tuesday. Matt Cooke, Tyler Kennedy, Evgeni Malkin, Ruslan Fedotenko and Alex Goligoski scored, while Kris Letang had two assists. Only five of Pittsburgh's 18 skaters failed to record a point in the win that pushed the Penguins' record to an NHL-best 8-1. Paul Kariya scored for the Blues.

Canadiens 2, Thrashers 1, SO

At Montreal, Scott Gomez and Brian Gionta scored in the shootout as Montreal snapped a five-game losing streak with a win over Atlanta.

Gionta, who scored late in the first period, sealed the win with a backhander past Ondrej Pavelec on Montreal's third attempt of the shootout.

Jaroslav Halak stopped Ilya Kovalchuk and Rich Peverley on the Thrashers' first two attempts.

The Canadiens avoided their worst start in nearly 70 years with win No. 3. Montreal won one of its first 12 games in 1940.

Colby Armstrong scored for Atlanta.

Flames 6, Blue Jackets 3

At Calgary, Alberta, Jarome Iginla scored once and added two assists to lead Calgary over Columbus.

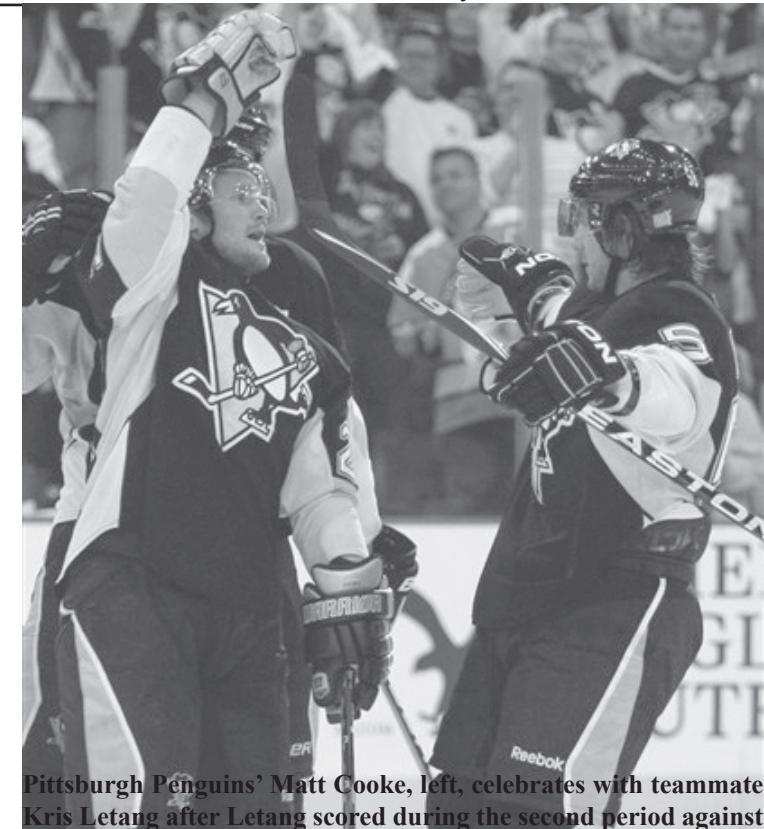
It was the first multipoint game of the season for the struggling Flames captain, who had only two goals and two assists through the first eight games.

Iginla played his second consecutive game on a line centered by Craig Conroy, and the reunited linemates

combined to set up first-period goals by Curtis Glencross and Jay Bouwmeester as Calgary took a 3-1 lead.

Daymond Langkow, Dion Phaneuf and Fredrik Sjostrom also scored for the Flames. Rick Nash, Derrick Brassard, and Jakub Voracek had goals for the Blue Jackets.

In other games it was, Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 1; Montreal 2, Atlanta 1, SO; and Calgary 6, Columbus 3. □



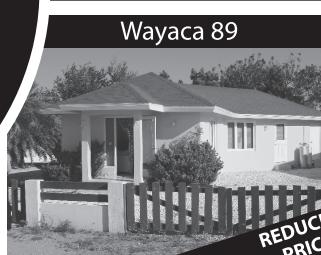
Pittsburgh Penguins' Matt Cooke, left, celebrates with teammate Kris Letang after Letang scored during the second period against the St. Louis Blues during NHL hockey action in Pittsburgh Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009. The Penguins won 5-1.

Associated Press



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Hatch urges Obama to investigate college's BCS



In this Jan. 4, 2008 file photo, workers pause to study their work as they paint the logo for the BCS Championship football game on the field at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. Bowl Championship Series officials are considering hiring a permanent point person to be a full-time advocate for the often-criticized postseason system. If a new position were created it likely would take over much of the high-profile responsibilities of the BCS coordinator — a two-year post that rotates among the commissioners of the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big East, Big 12 and Southeastern Conference.

By FREDERIC J. FROMMER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A senator whose undefeated home state school was bypassed for the college football national championship last season urged President Barack Obama on Wednesday to ask the Justice Department to investigate the Bowl Championship Series, citing Obama's own concerns about the way the top team is crowned in building a case for action.

"Mr. President, as you have publicly stated on multiple occasions, the BCS system is in dire need of reform," Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said in a 10-page letter to Obama calling for an antitrust probe of the BCS. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter.

Shortly after his election last year, Obama said he was going to "to throw my weight around a little bit" to nudge college football toward a playoff system. Obama and Hatch are among the many critics of how the BCS — a complex system of computer rankings and polls that often draws criticism — determines its national champion.

Hatch, who held a hearing on the BCS in July, told Obama that a "strong case" can be made that the BCS violates antitrust laws.

Under the BCS system, some athletic conferences get automatic bids to participate in top-tier bowl games while others don't, and the automatic bid conferences also get far more of the revenue. Hatch's home state

Associated Press

school, the University of Utah, is from the Mountain West Conference, which does not get an automatic bid. The school qualified for a bid last season but was bypassed for the national championship despite going undefeated.

The system "has been designed to limit the number of teams from non-privileged conferences that will play in BCS games," Hatch wrote.

Hatch said the BCS arrangement likely violates the Sherman Antitrust Act because, he argued, it constitutes a "contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce," quoting from the law. He said the system "artificially limits the number of nationally-relevant bowl games to five. The result

is reduced access to revenues and visibility which creates disadvantages to schools in the non-privileged conferences."

Hatch is the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary's subcommittee on antitrust, competition policy and consumer rights.

The senator said the hundreds of millions of dollars generated by college football "are hardly trivial sums," given that many schools use such revenue to fund things like other athletic programs.

The Justice Department said it would review the letter and respond as appropriate. The White House declined to comment.

The chairman of the BCS Presidential Oversight Committee, Harvey Perlman, said, "Like a majority of presidents, commissioners, athletics directors and coaches, we stand behind the BCS as the best way to identify a national champion."

Perlman, who is chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, noted that 120 schools compete through the season for the opportunity to play in four major bowls and the national championship game.

"No effort should be made to take away some of the best traditions of college football, which include the bowl games," he said. "Most importantly, our attorneys have done exhaustive reviews over the years, and we are confident that the BCS is in full compliance with the laws of the nation."

Alan G. Fishel, an attorney for the Mountain West Conference and Boise State University, backed Hatch's effort.

"If the government can look at the concentration of money in railroads, telecommunications and software developers, then why not the big business of college sports in America?" he said.

Hatch's letter comes a few days after the BCS released its first standings of the year. And on Monday, a group of college football fans launched the Playoff PAC, with the hope of electing more lawmakers who will pressure the BCS to switch to a playoff system. □

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Gobierno de facto Honduras toma distancia en diálogo

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters)

- El Gobierno de facto de Honduras dijo el miércoles que las negociaciones con sus rivales para superar la crisis política, que llevan semanas sin frutos, se alejaron de un acuerdo base que tiene como punto central la restitución del depuesto presidente Manuel Zelaya.

Negociadores de Zelaya y del presidente de facto, Roberto Micheletti, han pasado horas en la mesa y llegado a consensos en algunos puntos, pero no han logrado un acuerdo porque no cierran filas sobre la vuelta del derrocado líder al poder.

Y ese es el punto principal del pacto que se ha tomado como base para las negociaciones, el frustrado Acuerdo de San José promovido por el presidente costarricense Oscar Arias.

“Cabe señalar que ambas partes han presentado propuestas que están fuera de los márgenes del Acuerdo de San José”, dijo el Gobierno de facto en un comunicado.

“Ambas partes están de acuerdo en que ese documento sirve de base para las pláticas que hoy sostenemos, pero que la solución de esa crisis

será ‘Hecha en Honduras’”, agregó.

Zelaya, un empresario ganadero de 57 años, fue sacado del poder a punta de pistola el 28 de junio y expulsado a Costa Rica por supuestamente haber violado la Constitución con sus planes de un referéndum para abrir camino a la reelección.

Después de meses de infructuosas negociaciones en el exilio para regresar al poder, Zelaya volvió furtivamente a Honduras hace un mes y desde entonces está refugiado en la embajada de Brasil, que permanece rodeada por militares y policías con órdenes de arrestarlo si sale de la sede diplomática.

Víctor Meza, que encabeza la comisión negociadora de Zelaya, desmintió tajantemente a Reuters que ellos hayan presentado propuestas que se alejan del Acuerdo de San José. “No es cierto, no es cierto. Nosotros nos estamos ateniendo al espíritu de San José. En ningún momento hemos hecho una propuesta que no esté relacionada con el Acuerdo de San José”, dijo Meza.



Partidarios del depuesto mandatario hondureño Manuel Zelaya durante una marcha a su favor realizada en Tegucigalpa, oct 20 2009. El regreso al poder del depuesto mandatario de Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, parece casi una misión imposible, con las negociaciones para superar la crisis política trabadas mientras que sigue corriendo el reloj para las controvertidas elecciones presidenciales de noviembre. REUTERS/Oswaldo Rivas

Es otra de las acostumbradas mentiras de estas personas que están poniendo en nuestra boca palabras que nunca hemos dicho”, subrayó.

Las negociaciones fueron retomadas semanas atrás, pero algunos observadores

y opositores creen que Micheletti alarga el diálogo para ganar tiempo con la mira en los comicios del 29 de noviembre, con los que espera dar una vuelta de página a la crisis política y que todo vuelva a la normalidad.

“Nosotros obviamente creemos que eso (la vuelta de Zelaya) no es factible, nosotros partimos que tuvieron violaciones a la ley”, sostuvo uno de los representantes de Micheletti en la mesa de diálogo, Arturo Corrales. □

Perú conforma grupo para gira contra armamentismo en Sudamérica

LIMA (Reuters) - Perú conformó cuatro grupos de ministros que comenzarán en dos semanas una gira por Sudamérica para promover su propuesta contra el armamentismo en la región, dijo el miércoles el primer ministro Javier Velásquez.

El Gobierno anunció esta semana que la cruzada tiene como objetivo impulsar la idea que el presidente Alan García lanzó a los líderes de Sudamérica reunidos en Quito en septiembre, cuando planteó un pacto de no agresión a nivel regional.

La propuesta peruana incluye, además, la conformación de una fuerza de paz contra amenazas externas y la creación de una “fuerza disuasoria” que se activaría en casos de conflictos en la región, según la cancillería local.

La gira incluirá a Chile, Argentina y Uruguay con una delegación de legisladores encabezada por la ministra de Producción, Mercedes Aráoz, dijo Velásquez a periodistas.

Asimismo, el ministro de Comercio Exterior, Martín Pérez, partirá a Venezuela, Colombia y Ecuador; la titular del Ministerio de la Mujer, Nidia Vilchez, viajará a Bolivia y Paraguay y el ministro del Ambiente, Antonio Brack, irá

a Brasil y Surinam, agregó el funcionario.

“Este primer peregrinaje va a ser muy fructífero y va a permitir sensibilizar a América Latina de que la prioridad del gasto tiene que ir a saciar el hambre de los niños y no como lo ha dicho el presidente Alan García ponerle juego a los fusiles”, dijo Velásquez a su salida de Palacio de Gobierno.

El funcionario, citado por la agencia estatal de noticias Andina, refirió que la cancillería confeccionará la agenda de viajes, con las fechas precisas de las delegaciones peruanas, cuyas giras comenzarán en 15 días.

La propuesta de un pacto de no agresión que planteó García en una carta enviada a los líderes de la Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (Unasur), en Quito, generó malestar en Chile, país con el que Perú tiene un litigio internacional por diferencias en sus límites marítimos.

En los últimos meses, los temas de seguridad han caldeado los ánimos en el continente en medio de un polémico plan entre Colombia y Estados Unidos para que soldados del país norteamericano utilicen siete bases militares colombianas. □



Foto de archivo del primer ministro peruano, Javier Velásquez, saludando a sus partidarios tras su ceremonia de asunción al cargo en el Palacio de Gobierno en Lima, jul 11 2009. REUTERS/Enrique Castro-Mendivil

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

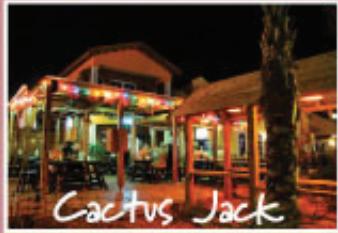


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www.cafetheplaza.com



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